

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03333 151700Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /125 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8759

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03333

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, GR

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF BRITISH SHIP VISIT TO GREECE
(AND CHILE)

REF: STATE 051888 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: CANCELLATION IS OFFICIALLY TIED TO BRITISH
DESIRE TO SEE DEMOCRACY RESTORED IN GREECE. WE MAY
EXPECT NEW COOLNESS IN BRITISH BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH GREECE (AS WITH PORTUGAL AND CHILE) BUT NO
SUPPORT FOR MOVES TO EJECT GREECE FROM NATO. END
SUMMARY.

1. FCO SOUTH EUROPEAN DEPT. HEAD GOODISON CONFIRMED
FCO CANCELLATION OF VISIT BY HMS TIGER AND HMS CHARYBDIS
WHICH WERE DUE TO BEGIN VISIT TO GREECE ON MARCH 15.
ALSO CONFIRMED THAT BRITISH, IN INFORMING GOG, MADE
REFERENCE TO CONCERN OVER GREEK POLITICAL SITUATION
(REFTEL) AS WELL AS TO PASSAGE IN QUEEN'S SPEECH STATING
THAT NEW GOVERNMENT "WILL GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE
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PAGE 02 LONDON 03333 151700Z

MAINTENANCE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE".

2. DURING FCO PRESS BRIEFING MARCH 14, PRESS WAS TOLD HMG IS "VERY ANXIOUS TO SEE DEMOCRACY RESTORED IN GREECE", AND DID NOT WISH VISIT TO CAST DOUBT ON ITS ATTITUDE BY PROCEEDING WITH THE NAVAL VISIT. HMG IS REVIEWING ENTIRE PROGRAM OF ROYAL NAVY VISITS. HMG CONTINUES TO SUPPORT MAINTENANCE OF NATO ALLIANCE. HMG POLICY TOWARD CHILE AND PORTUGAL ARE STILL UNDER REVIEW.

3. CANCELLATION WAS GIVEN PROMINENT FIRST-PAGE TREATMENT BY BRITISH PRESS WITH LINKAGE MADE TO LABOR GOVERNMENT'S PROBABLE DISAPPROVAL OF OTHER REGIMES SUCH AS THOSE IN PORTUGAL AND CHILE.

4. GOODISON TELLS US NO OTHER OFFICIAL BRITISH VISITS TO GREECE ARE ON THE HORIZON. IF HE WERE TO SPECULATE PERSONALLY ON NEW GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TOWARD GREECE, GOODISON TELLS US HE EXPECTS IT WILL FOLLOW GENERAL LINES SUGGESTED BY QUEEN'S SPEECH AS TO SOLIDARITY WITH NATO PARTNERS. HE WOULD EXPECT NO SUPPORT FOR MOVES TO EJECT GREECE FROM NATO. BY SAME TOKEN, IT IS REASONABLE TO EXPECT A DEGREE OF COOLNESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN COUNTRIES (GREECE, CHILE, AND PORTUGAL) WHOSE REGIMES HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED BY LABOR WHILE IN OPPOSITION.

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